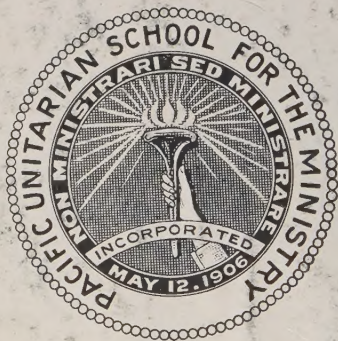


# MINISTERS HANDBOOK

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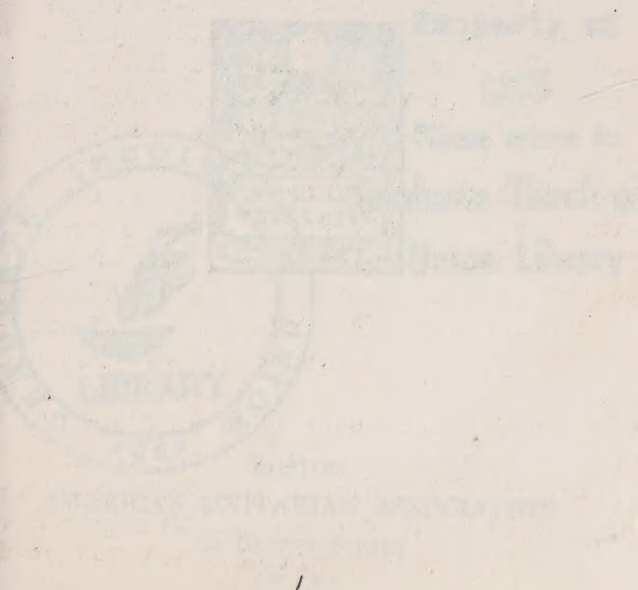




# A HANDBOOK FOR MINISTERS

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# A HANDBOOK FOR MINISTERS

## I

SERVICES FOR BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, MAR-  
RIAGE, FUNERAL AND OTHER OCCASIONS



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## FOREWORD

This Handbook seeks to supply an acknowledged want. It is designed to meet the need of liberal ministers for a neat, portable book which shall contain suggestions of suitable forms and orders for pastoral services which they can use without intellectual embarrassment or spiritual restraint. Its purpose is to provide a convenient manual but not a compulsory ritual. The desire of the Committee which has compiled the book has been to suggest orders of service which shall be sincere and dignified and at the same time flexible and adaptable to varying circumstances. Alternative sentences and prayers are thus frequently suggested and much is left to individual choice and judgment. For the most part the services suggest the adoption of the sentences, prayers and poems which have borne the test of long-continued use. They have never, however, before been grouped just as they are in this Handbook. Ministers who desire a larger choice of poems for funeral services will find a hundred additional hymns and poems printed in a companion volume. The Committee ventures to hope that the use of this book will prove a convenience to ministers and a comfort and satisfaction to the people of their congregations.



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## THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

¶ *Opening sentences—one or more to be read by the minister:*

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. And these words which I command thee this day shall be upon thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way and when thou risest up.

And Jesus took a child and set him in the midst of them, and said, Whosoever shall receive this little child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth him that sent me.

And they brought unto him little children, that he should touch them: and the disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall



not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.

¶ *Then the minister, addressing the parents, shall say:*

Dearly beloved, in bringing your child to receive Christian baptism you do confess your faith that *he* is the gift of God, committed to your care and nurture; and you declare that you desire for *him* that in the spirit of Jesus *he* shall grow in the knowledge and love of God. To this end will you endeavor to instruct *him*, by your teaching and your example, as God shall help and guide you?

*Answer.* We will.

¶ *Then shall the minister say to the parents:*

Name this child.

¶ *Then, naming the child and baptizing it, the minister shall say:*

In the faith, fellowship, and hope of the gospel, I dedicate thee to God, our Father in heaven.  
*Amen.*

¶ *or this*

I consecrate thee to God, to the keeping of his love and to the service of his truth.

¶ *Then may be said one or more of the prayers following: or the minister may offer prayer in his own words.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast promised unto us that thou wilt not only be our God, but the God and Father of our children, we welcome this child into the service of the truth, into the arms of thy mercy, and into the fellowship of those who love thee and strive to do thy will; grant unto *him* thy best blessings of body and soul, that *he* may pass safely through the temptations and trials of this life, and have part with all thy faithful children in the blessedness of the life eternal. *Amen.*

Endue these thy servants, O God, with wisdom from above, that they may faithfully perform their happy task. Help them to consecrate to thy service this gift of thy goodness. By thy holy spirit aid them, and all who are here present, so to live before thee in love and obedience as finally to see thy face in joy and peace eternal. *Amen.*

Almighty God, by whose providence the generations of mankind are raised up and brought to knowledge of thee and fitted for thy favor, grant that this child now dedicated to thee may be endowed with heavenly virtues, and so taught and trained as befits a child of God and an heir of immortality. In every trial and temptation be thou *his* protector, and guard *him* on earth until thou dost receive *him* to thyself. *Amen.*

Almighty God, let now thy blessing rest upon this child, whom we bless in thy name. Grant unto *him* a healthful body, a good understanding, sweet disposition and rich measure of thy

holy spirit. Help these, thy servants, to guide *him* in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Counsel them in their perplexities, sustain them in their duties, and grant that theirs may be the joy of seeing their child grow in strength, wisdom and grace, obedient to thy will. *Amen.*

Our Father in heaven, grant, we pray thee, that this water of baptism may prove a true emblem of thy purifying love, and this child be holy unto thee. Help these thy servants that they may protect and guide *him* as *he* shall learn to know thee and obey thee. Bestow on *him*, if it be thy will, all earthly good; save *him*, if it be thy will, from all earthly harm. But, above all, so grant to *him* the gifts of righteousness and truth and love, that no temptation shall assail *him* greater than *he* shall be strong to resist, no burden be laid upon *him* heavier than he shall be able to bear. Breathe into *him* thine all-ministering spirit, the holy mind of him who took little children in his arms and blessed them. *Amen.*

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow the benediction.*

## THE BAPTISM OF ADULT PERSONS

¶ *Opening sentences—one or more to be read by the minister:*

Thus saith the Lord God: I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee unto the Jordan, to be baptized of John. But John would have hindered him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? But Jesus, answering, said unto him, Suffer it now, for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

Except a man be born anew he cannot see the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## 6 BAPTISM OF ADULT PERSONS

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

¶ *Then the minister, addressing the person to be baptized, shall say:*

In presenting yourself to receive Christian baptism you do confess your faith that as the child of God it is your duty and your privilege to live in filial obedience to his will; and you declare that beyond health, or riches, or worldly wisdom, you desire that in the spirit of Jesus you may grow in the knowledge and love of God. Will you endeavor thus to live as a child of God, as he shall help and guide you?

*Answer.* I will.

¶ *Then baptizing him, the minister shall say:*

In the faith, fellowship, and hope of the gospel, I dedicate thee to God, our Father in heaven.  
*Amen.*

¶ *Then may be said one or more of the prayers following:*

We give thee humble thanks, O heavenly Father, that thou dost call us to faith in thee and to thy service. Confirm our faith, we pray thee, and make more plain to us, day by day, the path of duty. Give to *this* thy servant thy holy spirit, that *he* may attain thy promises,

continually overcoming all *his* temptations, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living. *Amen.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who art our refuge and strength, grant unto *this* thy *servant* thy holy spirit, that, *his* heart being filled with thy peace, *he* may more and more abide in holiness and righteousness all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

O Father, take thou full possession of our souls for ever; may thy heavenly wisdom reign in our hearts, thy counsel guide us, thy strength fortify us, thy divine fear and love keep us from all evil; that having fought the good fight of faith, we may at length come off more than conquerors, through him that loved us. *Amen.*

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow this benediction:*

May that mind be in you which was in Jesus Christ: and the blessing of God, the Father Almighty, rest upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## A SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

¶ *Opening Sentences to be read by the Minister.*

Let us hear the words of the wise, that have come down to us from ancient times, and that have been proved true by the experience of many generations.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The ways of wisdom are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom; and, with all thy getting, get understanding. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the high God? He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee. So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

If thou comest to serve the Lord, prepare thy



soul for temptation. Set thy heart aright, and constantly endure, and make not haste in time of trouble. Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate. For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity. Ye that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; and turn not aside, lest ye fall. Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good, and for everlasting gladness and joy. Look at the generations of old, and see; who did ever put his trust in the Lord, and was confounded? or who did ever abide in his fear, and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise, that called upon him? For the Lord is full of compassion and saveth in time of affliction. But woe unto fearful hearts, and faint hands, and to the sinner that goeth two ways! Woe unto him that is fainthearted! he shall not be defended. Woe unto you when you have lost patience, for what will ye do when the Lord shall visit you? They then that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts; and they that love him will keep his ways.

Hear, too, the words of Jesus.

If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

The first of all the commandments is, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and

## 10 A SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself; on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

And, finally, hear the word of the Apostle.

Brethren, I count not myself to have attained; but this one thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, forbearing one another in love and endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, strengthen *these thy servants*, we pray thee, with thy holy spirit, and daily increase in *them* thy manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill *them*, O Lord, with the spirit of obedience to thy holy will, now and for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then, all of them standing or kneeling before the minister, he shall lay his hands upon the head of each one, or take each in turn by the right hand, saying:*

Defend, O Lord, *this* thy *child* (or servant) with thy heavenly grace, that *he* may continue thine for ever, and daily increase in thy holy spirit more and more, until *he* come into thine everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

Or,

The Lord defend thee with his heavenly grace, and by his spirit confirm thee in the faith and fellowship of all true Christian souls.

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who makest both to will and to do those things that are good, we offer our prayers unto thee for *these* thy *servants*, who *have* expressed *their* earnest desire to be enabled to fulfil *their* duties as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let thy fatherly hand, we beseech thee, ever be over *them*; let thy holy spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of thy law that in the end *they* may obtain eternal life. *Amen.*

Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, O Lord, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of thy laws and in the works of thy commandments, that, through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul. *Amen.*

## 12 A SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same. *Amen.*

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow this benediction:*

The blessing of God, the Father Almighty, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## A SERVICE FOR JOINING THE CHURCH

¶ *Opening sentences, one or more to be said by the minister:*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Wherewith shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the high God? He hast showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

The first of all the commandments is, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself; on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Brethren, I count not myself to have attained; but this one thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forward unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus:

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God. Now are we the children of God.

¶ *Then the minister shall say:*

By presenting yourselves here to-day, you commit yourselves not to any fixed intellectual creed, but to a moral and spiritual purpose.

In a world like this, where so much needs to be done to establish the kingdom of God, which is the perfect condition of man, it is fitting that those who are willing to consecrate themselves to the work of fighting against all evil and helping forward all good, should know each other and pledge themselves to mutual aid.

As an outward symbol of this inner conviction and purpose, you will now repeat with me, and with these your friends and fellow workers, this covenant.

¶ *Then shall the minister and people repeat together the following covenant or the covenant of their church:*

“In the love of truth, and in the spirit of Jesus ~~Christ~~, we unite for the worship of God and the service of man.”

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

Let us pray:

O God, our heavenly Father who hast commanded us to love one another as thy children, and hast ordained the highest friendship in the bond of thy spirit, we beseech thee to maintain and preserve us always in the same, to thy glory and our mutual comfort; that we may be protected together in that love which is from above, and which never faileth when all other things fail. Send down the dew of thy heavenly grace upon us, that we may have joy in each other that passeth not away; and having lived together in love here, according to thy commandment, may live forever together, in thy glorious kingdom hereafter, being made one with thee. *Amen.*

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



## 16 SERVICE FOR JOINING CHURCH

¶ *The members of the church present shall then rise and remain standing, while the minister extends the right hand of fellowship to each candidate in turn, saying:*

In behalf of the . . . (*giving name of the church*) . . . I extend to you the right hand of fellowship, and give you cordial welcome to our household of faith. May the blessing of God hold us ever together in the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace.

¶ *The congregation may then join in singing a hymn, after which shall follow the benediction.*

The blessing of God, the Father Almighty, be with you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## THE OFFERTORY

¶ *Before or during the offertory the minister may read one or more of the following passages:*

As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto those who are of the household of faith.

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him?

Concerning the collection for the saints, upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him.

Therefore, as ye abound in faith and utterance and knowledge, and in all diligence, see that ye abound in charity also.

Let every man, according as he purposeth in his heart, give: not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Inasmuch as ye have done good to one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye unto them.

☞ *When all the offerings have been received the bearers shall stand before the minister and he shall repeat one of the following prayers, or offer prayer in his own words.*

Accept, O Lord, these offerings which thy people make unto thee, and grant that the cause to which they are devoted may prosper under thy hand, to the praise of thy great name. *Amen.*

Almighty God, we can bring to thee only what thou hast first given to us, for all that we have is thine. May we accept and use thy bounty as faithful stewards and may thy love in our hearts bring forth the fruit of love for our neighbors. *Amen.*

Father divine, of whose bounty we have all received; we pray thee to accept this offering of thy people. Remember in thy love those who have made it, and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with thy blessing that it may promote good-will among men, and advance the kingdom of thy righteousness. *Amen.*

## THE COMMUNION SERVICE

¶ *The minister may begin the service by reading one or more of the following sentences:*

Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine, no more can ye except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; and so shall ye be my disciples.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Henceforward I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard from my Father I have made known unto you.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

And the Spirit and the Church say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him

that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

By one Spirit are we baptized into one body, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. Being many, we are one, being partakers of one bread.

Behold! I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

¶ *Then may follow other portions of Scripture, an address, and a prayer; or the service may proceed as follows:*

We are assembled here to meditate together on the life and death of Jesus Christ, that we may consecrate ourselves more earnestly to the service of God and of one another. In communion with Jesus, and with all who have been faithful servants of God, counting not their lives dear unto themselves, we now offer our prayer together to our Father in heaven.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for all who have walked in thy light, and especially for those near to us and dear, in whose lives we have seen thine excellent glory and beauty. May we know that out of the body as in the body they are with thee, and that when these earthly days come to an end, it is not that our service of

thee and of one another may cease, but that it may begin anew. Make us glad in all who have faithfully lived; make us glad in all who have peacefully died. Lift us into light and love and purity and blessedness, and give us at last our portion with those who have trusted in thee, and sought in all things to do thy holy will. And unto thy blessed name do we ascribe all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *Or the following exhortation and prayer may be used in place of those above:*

Dearly beloved. We unite in this service in order to testify, not that we are righteous, but that we reverently cherish the memory of Jesus, and that we desire the common fellowship of his disciples. We have been inspired by his life, guided by his teachings, and made better by his death. We come together to commemorate him, to acknowledge our debt to him, and to enter more deeply into his spirit. We would remember, too, those that have gone before us in the same way, having lived lives of faithful discipleship and blessed the earth by their presence. In the spirit of Jesus, and of those that have followed in his steps, let us consecrate ourselves anew to the Christian life; whether to do or to suffer the will of God; and let us dedicate ourselves and all that is ours to a more unselfish service of our brethren. To this end, let us lift up our hearts in prayer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank

thee for the privilege of uniting in this service which brings us near to him who taught us how to live and how to die; and which brings us near to those who have gathered here in the past, and found in these same memories strength and patience with which to meet the discouragements and bear the burdens and do the work of life.

We thank thee for all that this service has meant to us; for the humility to which the presence of this great life must always bring our self-righteousness and pride; for the peace with which it stills our sorrow and care; and for the mood of heroism and self-sacrifice into which it lifts us away from all that is petty and mean in our thought and purpose. And we pray thee, O our Father, that this humility and heroism and peace may not end with the associations of this place and hour, but may abide with us, and day by day bear fruit unto life eternal. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the minister shall say:*

Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.

¶ *And then, as the minister delivers the bread to the people, he shall say:*

This bread is broken and shared in memory of all those who, out of that which was highest and holiest in their own lives, gave to the need that was nearest in the lives of their fellow men. The bread of God is he that cometh down from heaven,



and giveth life unto the world. Eat this in remembrance of Jesus, and of all Christlike souls.

¶ *When all have received the bread, the minister shall say:*

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

¶ *And then, as the minister delivers the cup to the people, he shall say:*

This cup is filled and shared in memory of all those who, whether in a moment's supreme self-sacrifice, or through years of patient and faithful service, laid down their lives for their friends.

Drink this in remembrance of Jesus, and of all Christlike lives.

¶ *When all have received the cup, the minister shall say:*

Let us join our prayers. Grant unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another and with thee, may feel our hearts burn within us; until all pure and just and holy things are lovely to us, and we find nothing to fear but that which is hateful in thine eyes. Let thy peace possess our souls, while we look to thy loving kindness and tender mercy to lift us above that which is low and mean; and, at last, give to the spirit within us a perfect victory, and bring us safe through death unto life everlasting. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

When Jesus and his disciples had supped together, they sang a hymn, and went out.

¶ *Then a hymn shall be sung, followed by the benediction.*

And now may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, the comfort of his holy spirit of truth and of love, and the grace and strength which are in the teachings of Jesus Christ, be with us and abide with us all forever. *Amen.*

## MARRIAGE SERVICE

### I

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of this company, to join together this man and this woman in marriage, which is an estate instituted of God and made honorable by the faithful keeping of good men and women in all time. It is therefore not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

¶ *Then shall the minister say unto the persons who are to be married:*

I require and charge you both, as ye shall answer at the day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's law doth allow, their marriage is not lawful.

¶ *The minister shall then say to the man:*

M., wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

¶ *The man shall answer:*

I will.

¶ *Then shall the minister say to the woman:*

N., wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, in sorrow and in joy, and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

¶ *The woman shall answer:*

I will.

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

¶ *Then shall they give troth to each other in this manner. The minister receiving her at her father's or friend's hands, shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and to say after him;*

I, *M.*, take thee, *N.*, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

¶ *Then shall the woman likewise say after the minister:*

I, *N.*, take thee, *M.*, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

¶ *Then shall they again loose their hands; and the man shall give unto the woman a ring. And the minister taking the ring shall deliver it to the man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the left hand. And the man, holding the ring there, and taught by the minister, shall say:*

With this ring I thee wed, and to thee only do I promise to keep myself, so long as we both shall live.

¶ *Then the minister shall say to the people:*

Forasmuch as *M.* and *N.* have consented together in wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have engaged and pledged themselves to each other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring and by joining hands; I there-

fore, ministering in the name of God, and with the authority vested in me by the State, do pronounce them husband and wife; and those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

Let us pray:

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life; send thy blessing upon these thy servants, whom we bless in thy name. Enable them faithfully to perform this covenant which they have made in thy presence. Help them that they may be a blessing and a comfort, each to the other, sharers of each other's joys, consolers of each other's sorrows, helpers of each other in all the chances and changes of the world. Grant that they may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow the benediction:*

The Lord God Almighty bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that ye may so live together in this life that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

## MARRIAGE SERVICE

### II

We are here gathered to unite this man and this woman in marriage, which is an institution ordained of God in the very laws of our being for the happiness and welfare of mankind. To be true, this outward ceremony must be but a symbol of that which is inner and real,—a sacred union of hearts that the Church may bless and the State make legal, but that neither can create or annul. Marriage is not meant for happiness alone, but for the discipline and development of character. To this end there must be a consecration of each to the other, and of both to the noblest purposes of life.

☞ *Then shall the minister say to the man:*

Will you, *M.*, take this woman, *N.*, to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity so long as you both shall live?

*Answer.* I will.

☞ *Then shall the minister say to the woman:*

Will you, *N.*, take this man, *M.*, to be your

wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor him, and keep him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity so long as you both shall live?

*Answer.* I will.

¶ *Then shall the minister say to the man:*

What pledge do you offer that you will fulfill these vows?

¶ *The man shall answer:*

This ring.

¶ *The man shall then hand the ring to the minister, and he shall say to the woman:*

Do you also accept this in token of the same?

¶ *The woman shall answer:*

I do.

¶ *Then shall the minister returning the ring, say to the man:*

You will then place it on the fourth finger of the left hand.

¶ *After the man and the woman have joined their right hands, the minister shall say:*

These two persons having solemnly promised to live together in marriage after God's or-



dinance and according to the laws of the land, and having declared the same by joining their right hands, and by the giving and receiving of the marriage ring, I, by virtue of authority vested in me by the State, and in the name of our Father in heaven, pronounce them husband and wife. And whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who hath put it into the hearts of these thy servants to live together in holy wedlock, grant unto them, we pray, thy continual protection and defence. Help them to fulfil their solemn vows, and to live together in holiness, in mutual love, and in the ways of thy commandments. Bless them, we beseech thee, from thy holy habitation, that not in word only, or in outward form, they may be united, but by thy presence in their hearts they may be made one spirit in thee. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow the benediction:*

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace. *Amen.*

## A MARRIAGE DECLARATION

*Where a mere declaration of marriage is desired the following may be used:*

¶ *The minister shall say:*

Standing as you now do in the presence of God and these witnesses, do you covenant to take each other as husband and wife, and agree to live together as God's ordinance and the laws of the land decree?

¶ *Then shall the man and the woman each say:*

I do.

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the State, I pronounce you husband and wife.

## FUNERAL SERVICE

*The minister may meet the procession at the entrance of the church, and, going before, recite one or more of the opening sentences, or he may read them while the procession is entering.*

¶ *If the service is held in the home it may begin in the same way.*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. The Lord of hosts is with us.

All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

☞ *Then may be sung a hymn or an anthem or chant.*

☞ *Then shall the minister read appropriate selections from the Scriptures, chosen from the following passages or from those on pages forty-six to fifty-six:*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our

hearts unto wisdom. O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ✕ Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. ✕ He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.

Love rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up and with what body do they come? That which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for-

asmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. For all men have one entrance into life, and the like going out. Ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. The floods have lifted up, O Lord; the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. Deep calleth unto deep; thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. I call to remembrance my song in the night; I commune with mine own heart. Hath God forgotten to be gracious? And I said, This is my infirmity; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High. Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous; but I said, Truly this is a grief and I must bear it. Not as I will, but as thou wilt; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak; O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

✓ For eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit: for the spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. ✕

If God be for us, who can be against us? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the holy spirit. *Amen.*

☪ *Then shall the minister, if desired, read an appropriate poem.*

☪ *Then may be sung a hymn or anthem.*

☪ *Then, if desired, may follow a brief address.*

☪ *Then shall the minister read from the following prayers or offer prayer in his own words:*



Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord; and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; we give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labors. And we beseech thee that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss in thy heavenly and everlasting glory. *Amen.*

O holy and loving Father, whose mercies are from everlasting to everlasting, and who dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men, we thank thee that thy children can flee for refuge in their afflictions to the blessed certainty of thy love. From every grief that burdens our spirits, from the sense of solitude and loss, from the doubt and fainting of the soul in its trouble, we turn to thee. Thou knowest our frame, thou rememberest that we are dust. Be thou our strength and deliverer; in our great need be thou our helper; pour thy consolations into our hearts, and let the gospel of thy beloved son minister comfort and peace to our souls. *Amen.*

O God of light eternal, we look to thee. Though clouds are round about thee and the shadow lies upon us here, we know that thy mercy is undimmed; and with perfect trust we wait for thee, as they whose eyes watch for the morning.

Do with us as thou wilt: call us to our work or to our rest; bid us take up our burden or lay it down. Abide with us by night and day; and be our strength to do and bear thy perfect will.  
*Amen.*

O God, thou Helper of the helpless, look upon this sorrowing home with thy tender mercy; sustain and comfort these mourning hearts. In thy holy keeping are the living and the dead: and all are safe, for underneath are the everlasting arms. Give us strength to return to the quiet duties of our place. With chastened desires, and with greater trust in thee, may we dedicate ourselves anew to the service of thy will; that, in the faith and spirit of him who was made perfect through suffering, each of us may be ready to say, whenever the hour shall come, "Father, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." *Amen.*

Almighty God, whose ways are often dark and strange to our mortal vision, we believe that thy love and thy mercy do not change. As thou spreadest over this house and these hearts the shadow of a great affliction, we invoke thy help that in the sorrowful and lonely hours we may still feel thy presence with us. Bring to us in this hour of loss and grief the comforting hope of immortality, and may thy holy spirit, the comforter, abide with us forever! *Amen.*

Eternal God, Father of all spirits, we come to thee in this hour because we need thy consolation

and strength. Breathe thy peace into our hearts, and remove from us all fear of death. Help us to perceive that we are spiritual beings living in a spiritual universe and that while the things that are seen are temporal and pass away, the unseen, spiritual things are real and eternal; and give to us a blessed sense of that eternal love that holds us all.

As we commit this body to the earth, we commend the ascended spirit to thy love and care. Thou wilt grant to those who seek thee the blessed vision of thy perfect light and fit them for a higher service. Thou wilt renew the strength that failed, restore the vision that was dimmed, and bring thy children to a knowledge of thine eternal love. To that eternal love we commend ourselves and commend each other to-day. May we, in all our present work and striving, in our gladness and in our sorrow, and in all the deepest experiences of our life here below, be kept in fellowship of spirit with the faithful and the true; and finally persuade us that neither life nor death can separate us from thy love. *Amen.*

O Lord God of heaven and earth, who fillest the earth with thy goodness and the heavens with thy glory, we rejoice that amid hopes which so often deceive us, and expectations which perish, we have still our faith in thee. Thou art from everlasting to everlasting, and thy years fail not. Our fathers thou hast called to thy higher praise, and gathered to their fathers must all the children be. Not long shall we feel after thee in these

courts below; not long wilt thou hearken to these faltering lips, but thou art eternally the same. Through all the clouds of earthly grief and sorrow, thy comforting spirit comes down to us with healing influence, soothing our wounds, and shedding the sacrament of consolation on eyes that weep, and hearts that mourn. Thou givest, and thou takest away, and if in death we cling too fondly to our own, have mercy, Lord, for thou hast fashioned our hearts for love and for life. We know that they who go from us to thee are safe in thy keeping, and there we leave them in sacred trust. They share with thee the eternal life, and no evil can befall them. Into thy loving hands we commit their spirits, tenderly, trustfully, and without murmur or complaint.

O God, thou helper of the helpless and hope of the despairing, we thank thee for the deep assurance of the eternal life, which brightens the hour of death. We trust the radiant light of our purest affection, and the clear vision of prophets and saints, and we turn from the perishable world and all its darkness, to the dayspring from on high.

Comfort, we pray thee, the hearts of this sorrowing family. Grant that thy children may not weep as those without hope, nor fret at thy will, but wisely read the lessons of thy providence, and meekly resign themselves to thee.

Hear us, gracious Father, in this the hour of sorrow, and temper all our souls to the burdens they must bear. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow the benediction.*

## BURIAL SERVICE

¶ *At the grave, after the body has been lowered, the minister may read any of the following selections:*

*He* whom you love is not here. Tenderly and reverently we lay this body in the earth, but *he* is with God.

In the midst of life, we are in death. Of whom may we seek for succor, but of thee, O Lord, in whom our souls do rest and hope?

We know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come. We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God to take unto himself the soul of his child, we therefore commit the body to the ground (*or to the*

purifying flame), in the blessed hope that, as *he* has borne the image of the earthly, so also *he* shall bear the image of the heavenly.

Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

¶ *If desired, the following poem may be read:*

O Lord of Life, where'er they be,  
Safe in thine own eternity,  
Our dead are living unto thee.  
All souls are thine, and, here or there,  
They rest within thy sheltering care;  
One providence alike they share.  
Thy word is true, thy ways are just:  
Above the requiem "dust to dust"  
Shall rise our psalm of grateful trust.  
O happy they in God who rest,  
No more by fear and doubt oppressed!  
Living or dying they are blest.

¶ *Then shall the minister say:*

Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, who art leading us through the changes of time to the rest and blessedness of eternity, be thou near to us, to comfort and uphold. Make us know and feel that thy children are precious in thy sight, and that they live evermore with thee, and that thy mercy endureth forever. Thankful for the life which thou didst give us for a season, may we

now resign it unto thee. May we return to the scenes of our daily life, to obey thy will with faithfulness, and to bear our trials in the patience of faith and hope. And when the peace of death falls upon us, may we find our perfect rest in thee. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall follow this benediction:*

The peace of God which passeth understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and the blessing of God, the Father Almighty, be with you, and abide among you forever. *Amen.*

## ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE

¶ *The following selections are for occasional use, at such appropriate place in the Funeral Service as the minister shall choose:*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God. In the sight of the unwise they seem to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace, and their hope is full of immortality: for God hath proved them, and found them worthy for himself. [*Wisdom iii.*]

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee. And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry: hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more. [*Ps. xxxix.*]

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been



a shelter for me, and I will trust in the covert of thy wings. [*Ps. lxi.*] Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. [*Ps. lvii.*] O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill. [*Ps. xliii.*] My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. [*Ps. lxxiii.*]

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. [*Ps. xxvii.*]

✕ O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in the grave, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even

there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. ✕ [*Ps.cxxxix.*]

Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. [*John xi.*] Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. [*John xiv.*]

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. [*Matt. v.*]

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you,

that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. [*John xv.*]

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I heard a voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things have passed away. Behold I make all things new. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. / He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. [*Rev. xxi.*] Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. [*Rev. xiv.*] Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the heavenly city. [*Rev. xxii.*]

Who are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? These are they which came out of great tribulation. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth

on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. [*Rev. vii.*]

#### FAITHFUL MEN AND WOMEN

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. [*Matt. xxiv.*]

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit. [*Gal. v.*]

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. [*Rev. ii.*] Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. [*Matt. xxv.*]

The memorial of virtue is immortal: because it is known with God, and with men. When it is present, men take example at it; and when it is gone, they desire it: it weareth a crown, and triumpheth for ever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards. [*Wisdom iv.*]

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers

that begat us. The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through his great power from the beginning. Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies: leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions: such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing: rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations: all these were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times. There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be, which have no memorial. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore. The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise. [*Ecclus. xlv.*]

When the ear heard me, then it blessed me: and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me: because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me; and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. Unto

me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel. And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth as for the latter rain. [*Job xxix.*]

Then shall the King say, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. [*Matt. xxv.*]

Wherefore now, manfully changing this life, I will shew myself such an one as mine age requireth, and leave a notable example to such as be young to die willingly and courageously for the honorable and holy laws. It is manifest unto the Lord, that hath the holy knowledge, that whereas I might have been delivered from death, I now endure sore pains in body, but in soul am well content to suffer these things, because I fear him. And thus this man died, leaving his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not only unto young men, but unto all his nation. [*2 Mac. vi.*]

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. [*Prov. xxxi.*]

## CHILDHOOD

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Even so it is not the will of

your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. [*Matt. xviii.*] They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels. [*Mal. iii.*]

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them. [*Mark x.*]

When David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. [*2 Sam. xii.*]

And it came to pass, when the man of God saw the woman afar off, that he said to his servant: Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well. [*2 Kings iv.*]



## YOUTH

Honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

He pleased God and was beloved of him. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time: for his soul pleased the Lord. Thus the righteous that are dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living; and youth that is soon perfected, the many years and old age of the unrighteous. [*Wisdom iv.*]

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold. [*Prov. xxii.*]

## OLD AGE

Oh, how comely a thing is judgment for gray hairs, and for ancient men to know counsel! Oh, how comely is the wisdom of old men, and understanding and counsel to men of honor! Much experience is the crown of old men, and the fear of God is their glory. [*Ecclus. xxv.*]

O Death, acceptable is thy sentence unto the needy, and unto him whose strength faileth, that is now in the last age and is vexed with old things, and to him that despaireth and hath lost patience! Fear not the sentence of death, remember them that have been before thee, and that come after; for this is the sentence of the Lord over all flesh. [*Ecclus. xii.*]

As the clear light is upon the holy candlestick, so is the beauty of the face in ripe age.

Thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning. [*Job xi.*]

The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness. [*Prov. xvi.*]

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age. [*Ps. xcii.*]

The number of a man's days at the most are an hundred years. As a drop of water into the sea, so are a thousand years to the days of eternity. Therefore is God patient with them, and poureth forth his mercy upon them. [*Ecclus. xviii.*]

Thou shalt come to thy grave in full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season. [*Job v.*]

## POEMS FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE

### I

Within the maddening maze of things,  
And tossed by storm and flood,  
To one fixed stake my spirit clings:  
I know that God is good.

I long for household voices gone,  
For vanished smiles I long;  
But God hath led my dear ones on,  
And he can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath  
Of marvel or surprise,  
Assured alone that life and death  
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak  
To bear an untried pain,  
The bruised reed he will not break,  
But strengthen and sustain.

And so beside the silent sea  
I wait the muffled oar;  
No harm from him can come to me  
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where his islands lift  
 Their fronded palms in air;  
 I only know I cannot drift  
 Beyond his love and care.

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
 [From "*The Eternal Goodness.*"]

## II

Mysterious night! when our first parent knew  
 Thee from report divine and heard thy name,  
 Did he not tremble for this lovely frame,  
 This glorious canopy of light and blue?  
 Yet, 'neath the curtain of translucent dew,  
 Bathed in the rays of the great setting flame,  
 Hesperus with the host of heaven came,  
 And lo! creation widened in man's view.

Who could have thought such darkness lay concealed  
 Within thy beams, O sun! or who could find,  
 While leaf and fly and insect lay revealed,  
 That to such countless orbs thou mad'st us blind?  
 Why do we then shun death with anxious strife?  
 If light can thus deceive, wherefore not life?

*Blanco White.*

## III

Sunset and evening star,  
 And one clear call for me!  
 And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
 When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
 Too full for sound and foam,  
 When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
 Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
 And after that the dark!  
 And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
 When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place  
 The flood may bear me far,  
 I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
 When I have crossed the bar.

*Alfred Tennyson.*

#### IV

It singeth low in every heart,  
 We hear it, each and all,—  
 A song of those who answer not,  
 However we may call;  
 They throng the silence of the breast,  
 We see them as of yore,—  
 The kind, the brave, the true, the sweet,  
 Who walk with us no more!

'Tis hard to take the burden up,  
 When these have laid it down;  
 They brightened all the joy of life,  
 They softened every frown;  
 But oh, 'tis good to think of them,  
 When we are troubled sore!  
 Thanks be to God that such have been,  
 Though they are here no more!

More homelike seems the vast unknown,  
 Since they have entered there;  
 To follow them were not so hard,  
 Wherever they may fare;  
 They cannot be where God is not,  
 On any sea or shore;  
 Whate'er betides, thy love abides,  
 Our God, forevermore!

*John White Chadwick.*

V

All as God wills, who wisely heeds  
 To give or to withhold,  
 And knoweth more of all my needs  
 Than all my prayers have told!

Enough that blessings undeserved  
 Have marked my erring track;—  
 That wheresoe'er my feet have swerved,  
 His chastening turned me back;—

That more and more a Providence  
 Of love is understood,  
 Making the springs of time and sense  
 Sweet with eternal good;—

That death seems but a covered way  
 Which opens into light,  
 Wherein no blinded child can stray  
 Beyond the Father's sight;—

That care and trial seem at last,  
 Through memory's sunset air,  
 Like mountain ranges overpast,  
 In purple distance fair;—

That all the jarring notes of life  
 Seem blending in a psalm,  
 And all the angles of its strife  
 Slow rounding into calm.

And so the shadows fall apart,  
 And so the west winds play;  
 And all the windows of my heart  
 I open to the day.

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
 [From "My Psalm."]

## VI

Life! I know not what thou art,  
 But know that thou and I must part;  
 And when, or how, or where we met,  
 I own to me's a secret yet.

Life! we've been long together,  
 Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;  
 'Tis hard to part when friends are dear,—  
 Perhaps 't will cost a sigh, a tear;  
 Then steal away, give little warning,  
 Choose thine own time;  
 Say not Good Night,—but in some brighter clime  
 Bid me Good Morning.

*Anna Letitia Barbauld.*  
 [From "Life."]

## VII

I cannot think of them as dead,  
Who walk with me no more;  
Along the path of life I tread  
They have but gone before.

The Father's house is mansioned fair  
Beyond my vision dim;  
All souls are his, and here or there  
Are living unto him.

And still their silent ministry  
Within my heart hath place,  
As when on earth they walked with me  
And met me face to face.

Their lives are made forever mine;  
What they to me have been  
Hath left henceforth its seal and sign  
Engraven deep within.

Mine are they by an ownership  
Nor time nor death can free;  
For God hath given to Love to keep  
Its own eternally.

*Frederick Lucian Hosmer.*



## VIII

What shall I do with all the days and hours  
That must be counted ere I see thy face?  
How shall I charm the interval that lowers  
Between this time and that sweet time of grace?

I'll tell thee: for thy sake, I will lay hold  
Of all good aims, and consecrate to thee,  
In worthy deeds, each moment that is told  
While thou, beloved one, art far from me.

For thee, I will arouse my thoughts to try  
All heavenward flights, all high and holy strains;  
For thy dear sake, I will walk patiently  
Through these long hours, nor call their minutes  
pains.

I will this weary blank of absence make  
A noble task-time, and will therein strive  
To follow excellence, and to o'ertake  
More good than I have won since yet I live.

So may this darksome time build up in me  
A thousand graces which shall thus be thine;  
So may my love and longing hallowed be,  
And thy dear thought an influence divine.

*Frances Anne Kemble.*

## IX

God giveth quietness at last!  
The common way once more is passed  
From pleading tears and lingerings fond,  
To fuller life and love beyond.

Fold the wrapt soul in your embrace,  
Dear ones familiar with the place!  
While to the gentle greetings there  
We answer here with murmured prayer.

What to shut eyes hath God revealed?  
What hear the ears that death hath sealed?  
What undreamed beauty, passing show,  
Requites the loss of all we know?

O silent land, to which we move,  
Enough, if there alone be love!  
And mortal need can ne'er outgrow  
What it is waiting to bestow!

O pure soul! from that far-off shore  
Float some sweet song the waters o'er;  
Our faith confirm, our fears dispel,  
With the dear voice we loved so well!

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
[From "The Singer" Altered.]

## X

Father, in thy mysterious presence kneeling,  
 Fain would our souls feel all thy kindling love;  
 For we are weak, and need some deep revealing  
 Of trust and strength and calmness from above.

Lord, we have wandered forth through doubt and  
 sorrow,  
 And thou hast made each step an onward one;  
 And we will ever trust each unknown morrow,—  
 Thou wilt sustain us till its work is done.

In the heart's depths a peace serene and holy  
 Abides; and when pain seems to have its will,  
 Or we despair, oh may that peace rise slowly,  
 Stronger than agony, and we be still!

Now, Father, now, in thy dear presence kneeling,  
 Our spirits yearn to feel thy kindling love:  
 Now make us strong, we need thy deep revealing  
 Of trust and strength and calmness from above.

*Samuel Johnson.*

## XI

He sees when their footsteps falter, when their  
 hearts grow weak and faint;  
 He marks when their strength is failing, and listens  
 to each complaint;  
 He bids them rest for a season, for the pathway  
 has grown too steep;  
 And folded in fair green pastures, he giveth his  
 loved ones sleep.

## 66 POEMS FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

Like weary and worn-out children, that sigh for the  
daylight's close,  
He knows that they oft are longing for home and  
its sweet repose;  
So he calls them in from their labors ere the shadows  
around them creep,  
And silently watching o'er them, he giveth his loved  
ones sleep.

*He* giveth it! Friends the dearest can never this  
boon bestow;  
But he touches the drooping eyelids, and placid the  
features grow;  
Their foes may gather about them, and storms may  
round them sweep,  
But, guarding them safe from danger, he giveth his  
loved ones sleep.

All dread of the distant future, all fears that op-  
pressed to-day,  
Like mists that clear in the sunlight, have noiselessly  
passed away;  
Nor call, nor clamor can rouse them from slumbers  
so pure and deep,  
For only his voice can reach them, who giveth his  
loved ones sleep.

Weep not that their toils are over, weep not that  
their race is run;  
God grant we may rest as calmly when our work,  
like theirs, is done!  
Till then we would yield with gladness our treasures  
to him to keep,  
And rejoice in the sweet assurance, he giveth his  
loved ones sleep.

*Anonymous.*

## XII

All hearts grew warmer in the presence  
Of one who, seeking not his own,  
Gave freely for the love of giving,  
Nor reaped for self the harvest sown.

To homely joys and loves and friendships  
Thy genial nature fondly clung;  
And so the shadow on the dial  
Ran back and left thee always young.

The task was thine to mould and fashion  
Life's plastic newness into grace;  
To make the boyish heart heroic,  
And light with thought the maiden's face.

O'er all the land in town and prairie,  
With bended heads of mourning, stand  
The living forms that owe their beauty  
And fitness to thy shaping hand.

O friend! if thought and sense avail not  
To know thee henceforth as thou art,  
That all is well with thee forever  
I trust the instincts of my heart.

Thine be the quiet habitations,  
Thine the green pastures, blossom-sown,  
And smiles of saintly recognition  
As sweet and tender as thy own.

## 68 POEMS FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

Thou com'st not from the hush and shadow  
To meet us, but to thee we come;  
With thee we never can be strangers,  
And where thou art must still be home.

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
[From "A Memorial, M. A. C."]

### XIII

He has done the work of a true man,—  
Crown him, honor him, love him.  
Weep over him, tears of woman,  
Stoop, manliest brows, 'above him!

For the warmest of hearts is frozen,  
The freest of hands is still;  
And the gap in our picked and chosen  
The long years may not fill.

No duty could overtask him,  
No need his will outrun;  
Or ever our lips could ask him,  
His hands the work had done.

He forgot his own soul for others,  
Himself to his neighbor lending;  
He found the Lord in his suffering brothers,  
And not in the clouds descending.

Ah, well!—The world is discreet;  
There are plenty to pause and wait;  
But here was a man who set his feet  
Sometimes in advance of fate.

Never rode to the wrong's redressing  
 A worthier paladin;  
 Shall he not hear the blessing,  
 "Good and faithful, enter in!"

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
 [From "G. L. S."]

## XIV

The wisest man could ask no more of fate  
 Than to be simple, modest, manly, true,  
 Safe from the many, honored by the few;  
 To count as naught in world or church or state,  
 But inwardly in secret to be great;  
 To feel mysterious nature ever new;  
 To touch, if not to grasp, her endless clew,  
 And learn by each discovery how to wait.  
 He widened knowledge and escaped the praise;  
 He wisely taught because more wise to learn;  
 He toiled for science, not to draw men's gaze,  
 But for her love of self-denial stern.  
 That such a man could spring from our decays  
 Fans the soul's nobler faith until it burn.

*James Russell Lowell.*

## XV

The longer on this earth we live  
 And weigh the various qualities of men,  
 Seeing how most are fugitive,  
 Or fitful gifts, at best, of now and then,  
 The more we feel the high stern-featured beauty  
 Of plain devotedness to duty,

## 70 POEMS FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

Steadfast and still, nor paid with mortal praise,  
But finding amplest recompense  
For life's ungarlanded expense  
In work done squarely and unwasted days.

His was the true enthusiasm that burns long,  
Domestically bright,  
Fed from itself and shy of human sight,  
The hidden force that makes a lifetime strong,  
And not the short-lived fuel of a song.

Modest, yet firm as Nature's self; unblamed  
Save by the men his nobler temper shamed;  
Never seduced through show of present good  
By other than unsetting lights to steer  
New-trimmed in Heaven, nor than his steadfast mood  
More steadfast, far from rashness as from fear;  
Rigid, but with himself first, grasping still  
In swerveless poise the wave-beat helm of will;  
Quiet completeness, life without a fall  
From faith or highest aims, truth's breachless wall,  
Surely if any fame can bear the touch,  
His will say "Here!" at the last trumpet's call,  
The unexpressive man whose life expressed so much.

*James Russell Lowell.*  
[From "Under the Old Elm."]



## XVI

Who is the happy Warrior? Who is he  
 That every man in arms should wish to be?  
 — It is the generous Spirit, who, when brought  
 Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought  
 Upon the plan that pleased his childish thought:  
 Whose high endeavours are an inward light  
 That makes the path before him always bright:  
 Who, with a natural instinct to discern  
 What knowledge can perform, is diligent to learn;

— 'Tis he whose law is reason; who depends  
 Upon that law as on the best of friends;  
 — Who, if he rise to station of command,  
 Rises by open means; and there will stand  
 On honourable terms, or else retire,  
 And in himself possess his own desire;  
 Who comprehends his trust, and to the same  
 Keeps faithful with a singleness of aim;  
 And therefore does not stoop, nor lie in wait  
 For wealth, or honours, or for worldly state;  
 Whom they must follow; on whose head must fall,  
 Like showers of manna, if they come at all:  
 Who, through the heat of conflict, keeps the law  
 In calmness made, and sees what he foresaw;  
 Or if an unexpected call succeed,  
 Come when it will, is equal to the need:  
 — He who though thus endued as with a sense  
 And faculty for storm and turbulence,  
 Is yet a Soul whose master-bias leans  
 To homefelt pleasures and to gentle scenes;  
 Who, with a toward or untoward lot,  
 Prosperous or adverse, to his wish or not,  
 Plays, in the many games of life, that one

Where what he most doth value must be won:  
 Whom neither shape of danger can dismay,  
 Nor thought of tender happiness betray;  
 Who, not content that former worth stand fast,  
 Looks forward persevering to the last.

This is the happy Warrior; this is he  
 Whom every man in arms should wish to be.

*William Wordsworth.*

[From "*The Happy Warrior*."] ]

## XVII

As a guest that may not stay  
 Long and sad farewells to say  
 Glides with smiling face away,

Of the sweetness and the zest  
 Of thy happy life possessed.  
 Thou hast left us at thy best.

Warm of heart and clear of brain,  
 Of thy sun-bright spirit's wane  
 Thou hast spared us all the pain.

Now that thou hast gone away,  
 What is left of one to say  
 Who was open as the day?

Mirth that lit, but never burned;  
 All thy blame to pity turned;  
 Hatred thou hadst never learned.

Every harsh and vexing thing  
At thy home-fire lost its sting;  
Where thou wast was always Spring.

And thy perfect trust in good,  
Faith in man and womanhood,  
Chance and change and time withstood.

Small respect for cant and whine  
Bigot's zeal and hate malign,  
Had that sunny soul of thine.

But to thee was duty's claim  
Sacred, and thy lips became  
Reverent with one holy Name.

Therefore, on thy unknown way,  
Go in God's peace! We who stay  
But a little while delay.

Keep for us, O friend, where'er  
Thou art waiting, all that here  
Made thy earthly presence dear;

Keep the human heart of thee;  
Let the mortal only be  
Clothed in immortality.

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
[From "In Memory J. T. F."]

## XVIII

One who never turned his back but marched breast  
 forward,  
 Never doubted clouds would break,  
 Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong  
 would triumph,  
 Held we rise to fall, are baffled to fight better, sleep  
 to wake.

No, at noonday in the bustle of man's work-time  
 Greet the unseen with a cheer;  
 Bid men forward, breast and back as either should  
 be,  
 "Strive and thrive!" cry "Speed,—fight on, fare  
 ever  
 There as here!"

*Robert Browning.*  
 [From "Epilogue."]

## XIX

She met the hosts of Sorrow with a look  
 That altered not beneath the frown they wore,  
 And soon the lowering brood were tamed, and took,  
 Meekly, her gentle rule and frowned no more.  
 Her soft hand put aside the assaults of wrath,  
 And calmly broke in twain  
 The fiery shafts of pain,  
 And rent the nets of passion from her path.  
 By that victorious hand despair was slain;  
 With love she vanquished hate and overcame  
 Evil with good in her great Master's name.

*William Cullen Bryant.*  
 [From "The Conqueror's Grave."]

## XX

Her still and quiet life flowed on  
As meadow streamlets flow,  
Where fresher green reveals alone  
The noiseless ways they go.

Her path shall brighten more and more  
Unto the perfect day;  
She cannot fail of peace who bore  
Such peace with her away.

How reverent in our midst she stood,  
Or knelt in grateful praise!  
What grace of Christian womanhood  
Was in her household ways!

For still her holy living meant  
No duty left undone;  
The heavenly and the human blent  
Their kindred loves in one.

She kept her line of rectitude  
With love's unconscious ease:  
Her kindly instincts understood  
All gentle courtesies.

The dear Lord's best interpreters  
Are humble human souls;  
The Gospel of a life like hers  
Is more than books or scrolls.

## 76 POEMS FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

From scheme and creed the light goes out,  
The saintly fact survives;  
The blessed Master none can doubt  
Revealed in holy lives.

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
[From "*The Friend's Burial.*"]

### XXI

O blessed life of service and of love!

Heart wide as life, deep as life's deepest woe;  
God's servants serve him day and night above,  
Thou servedst day and night, we thought, below.

Hands full of blessings, lavished far and wide,  
Hands tender to bind up hearts wounded sore;  
Stooping quite down earth's lowest needs beside,—  
*Master, like thee!* we thought, and said no more.

We o'er all sorrow would have raised thee up,  
Crowned with life's choicest blossoms night and  
morn;  
God made thee drink of his beloved's cup,  
And crowned thee with the Master's crown of thorn.

Looking from thee to him, once wounded sore,  
We learned a little more his face to see;  
Then looking from the cross for us he bore,  
To thine, we almost understood for thee!

Till now, again! we gaze on thee above,  
Strong and unwearied, serving day and night;  
O blessed life of service and of love!  
*Master, like thee,* and with thee in thy light!

*Emily Charles.*

## XXII

My darling boy, so early snatched away  
 From arms still seeking thee in empty air,  
 That thou shouldst come to me I do not pray,  
 Lest, by thy coming, heaven should be less fair.

Stay, rather, in perennial flower of youth,  
 Such as the Master, looking on, must love;  
 And send to me the spirit of the truth,  
 To teach me of the wisdom from above.

Beckon to guide my thoughts, as stumblingly  
 They seek the kingdom of the undefiled;  
 And meet me at its gateway with thy key,  
 The unstained spirit of a little child.

*Francis Greenwood Peabody.*

## XXIII

The light of her young life went down,  
 As sinks behind the hill  
 The glory of a setting star,—  
 Clear, suddenly, and still.

As pure and sweet, her fair brow seemed  
 Eternal as the sky;  
 And, like the brook's low song, her voice,—  
 A sound which could not die.

And half we deemed she needed not  
 The changing of her sphere,  
 To give to heaven a shining one,  
 Who walked an angel here.

## 78 POEMS FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

The blessing of her quiet life  
Fell on us like the dew;  
And good thoughts where her footsteps pressed,  
Like fairy blossoms grew.

Sweet promptings unto kindest deeds  
Were in her very look;  
We read her face as one who reads  
A true and holy book.

Alone unto our Father's will  
One thought hath reconciled;  
That he whose love exceedeth ours  
Hath taken home his child.

Fold her, O Father! in thine arms,  
And let her henceforth be  
A messenger of love between  
Our human hearts and thee.

Still let her mild rebuking stand  
Between us and the wrong,  
And her dear memory serve to make  
Our faith in goodness strong.

*John Greenleaf Whittier.*  
[From "Gone."]



## XXIV

Children are God's apostles, day by day  
 Sent forth to preach of love, and hope, and peace  
 Nor hath thy babe his mission left undone.  
 To me, at least, his going hence hath given  
 Serener thoughts and nearer to the skies,  
 And opened a new fountain in my heart  
 For thee, my friend, and all: and oh, if Death  
 More near approaches, meditates, and clasps,  
 Even now some dearer, more reluctant hand,  
 God, strengthen thou my faith, that I may see  
 That 'tis thine angel who, with loving haste,  
 Unto the service of the inner shrine,  
 Doth waken thy belovèd with a kiss.

*James Russell Lowell.*

[*"On the death of a Friend's Child."*]

## XXV

"Ye sigh not when the sun, his course fulfilled,—  
 His glorious course, rejoicing earth and sky,—  
 In the soft evening, when the winds are stilled,  
 Sinks where his islands of refreshment lie,  
 And leaves the smile of his departure spread  
 O'er the warm-colored heaven and ruddy mountain-  
 head.

"Why weep ye then for him, who, having won  
 The bound of man's appointed years, at last,  
 Life's blessings all enjoyed, life's labors done,  
 Serenely to his final rest has passed;  
 While the soft memory of his virtues yet  
 Lingers, like twilight hues when the bright sun is set.

## 80 POEMS FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

"His youth was innocent; his riper age  
Marked with some act of goodness every day;  
And watched by eyes that loved him, calm and sage,  
Faded his late declining years away:  
Meekly he gave his being up and went  
To share the holy rest that waits a life well spent.

"And I am glad that he has lived thus long,  
And glad that he has gone to his reward;  
Nor can I deem that Nature did him wrong,  
Softly to disengage the vital cord;  
For when his hand grew palsied, and his eye  
Dark with the mists of age, it was his time to die."

*William Cullen Bryant.*  
[From "*An Old Man's Funeral.*"]

☪ *The following hymns are suggested for the occasional use of the congregation in connection with the foregoing services:*

*Hymns for the Baptism of Children.*

By cool Siloam's shady rill  
To thee, O God in heaven

*Hymns for Joining the Church and Confirmation.*

Arm these thy soldiers, mighty Lord  
Come let us join with faithful souls  
Go forth to life, O child of earth  
God of the earnest heart  
God's trumpet wakes the slumbering world  
Press on! Press on! ye sons of light  
Thou Lord of hosts, whose guiding hand

*Communion Hymns.*

A holy air is breathing round  
O here, if ever, God of Love  
O thou, whose gracious presence shone

*Marriage Hymn.*

O Perfect Love, all human love transcending

*Funeral Hymns.*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
For all thy saints, who from their labors rest  
I cannot think of them as dead  
It singeth low in every heart  
I long for household voices gone  
Lead, kindly Light,  
O Lord of life, where'er they be  
When on my day of life the night is falling

## BENEDICTIONS

The blessing of God, the Father Almighty, be with us, and remain with us, now and forevermore.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:  
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee,  
And be gracious unto thee:  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon thee,  
And give thee peace.

*Numbers vi, 24-26.*

The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: that we may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways.

*I Kings viii, 57, 61.*

O Lord, the God of our fathers, keep these things forever in the thoughts of thy people, and establish their hearts unto thee: that they may keep thy commandments for ever.

*I Chronicles xxix, 18-19.*

The Lord grant thee thy heart's desire,  
And fulfil all thy counsel;  
The Lord answer all thy petitions,  
And cause thee to rejoice in his salvation.

*Psalms xx, 1-5.*

And now may the Lord hear thy vows,  
And give unto thee the heritage of those that fear his  
name.

*Psalm lxi, 5.*

Now may God be merciful unto us, and bless us,  
And cause his face to shine upon us;  
That his way may be known upon earth,  
His saving health among all nations:

*Psalm lxxii, 1-7.*

Now let thy work, O Lord, appear unto thy servants,  
And thy glory upon their children.  
And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us;  
And establish thou the work of our hands upon us;  
Yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

*Psalm xc, 14-17.*

The Lord bless thy going out and thy coming in  
From this time forth and for evermore.

*Psalm cxxi, 8.*

Now let thou thy servants depart, O Lord,  
According to thy word, in peace;  
For our eyes have seen thy salvation.

*Luke ii, 29.*

Seeing therefore that we have obtained mercy, let  
us faint not; but renouncing the hidden things of  
shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the  
word of God deceitfully, by the manifestation of the  
truth, let us commend ourselves to every man's con-  
science in the sight of God.

*II Corinthians iv, 1-2.*

Now we entreat that ye receive not the grace of God in vain, but that ye walk worthily of the Lord, increasing in knowledge, abounding in love one toward another and toward all men, being filled with the fruits of righteousness.

*II Corinthians vi, 1; Colossians i, 10; Philippians i, 11.*

Now may God make all grace abound in you; that ye may abound unto every good work; that through the proving of your faith men may glorify God.

*II Corinthians ix, 8, 13.*

Now may our God and Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, grant that, according to the riches of his glory we may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; that we may know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, and be filled unto all the fulness of God.

*Ephesians iii, 14-19.*

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

*Ephesians iii, 20-21.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.

*Ephesians vi, 10, 13.*

Now may our love abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment; so that we may approve the things that are excellent; that we may be sincere and void of offence; being filled with the fruits of righteousness unto the glory and praise of God.

*Philippians i, 9-11.*

Now the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians iv, 7.*

Finally, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things: and the God of peace shall be with you.

*Philippians iv, 8-9.*

Now unto our God and Father be glory for ever and ever.

*Philippians iv, 20.*

Now may God count us worthy of our calling, and fulfil every desire of goodness and every work of faith, with power; that the name of the Most High may be glorified in us.

*II Thessalonians i, 11-12.*

The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the stedfastness of Christ.

*II Thessalonians iii, 5.*

Now unto him who is the King of kings, and Lord of lords; dwelling in light unapproachable; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; unto him be honor and power world without end.

*II Timothy vi, 15-16.*

Now may the God of all grace, who has called us into his eternal glory, perfect, establish, strengthen us. To him be the dominion for ever and ever.

*I Peter v, 10-11.*

Now unto him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, the Father almighty, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for evermore.

*Jude, verses 24-25.*

Grace be unto you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come; to whom be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever.

*Revelation i, 4-6.*

Now unto him who hath made us more than conquerors, unto him who giveth us the victory be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and for evermore.









































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